

seriously deficient in a knowledge of the more recent literature, and the chapter on the development of the nervous system needs rewriting under the stimulus of a better knowledge of comparative anatomy. The appendix on the laws of the various States is of great value. The appended bibliography is, like the work itself, in a decidedly confused state, and useless to the student. The present work, if cut down two thirds, if systematically arranged, if brought up to date in regard to most of the matters with which it deals, might be of value to the alienist. Dr. Mann can scarcely be said to have done well in so soon appearing before the public as an author. As it is, his enemies have certainly reason to be rejoiced at the fact that he has written a book. The reviewer, with high regard for the stand Dr. Mann has taken against popular prejudices in regard to questions where it would have been more profitable to have done otherwise, regrets, for Dr. Mann's own sake, that he should have published the present volume.

J. G. K.

**First Report of the Committee on Lunacy of the Board of Public Charities of the State of Pennsylvania, Sept. 30, 1883, Harrisburgh.** L. S. Hart, State printer, 1884.

This Committee on Lunacy consists of five persons, none of whom are alienists, and but one of whom is a medical man. This last gentleman has never been known other than as a surgeon, but it would seem that having married the daughter of a doctrinaire member of the Superintendents' Association this makes him, in the estimation of other doctrinaires, an alienist. The report is simply a statement of the act establishing this committee, and its rules and regulations. In the main, no objection could be made to the rules adopted, were they to be carried out by alienists, as by certain interpretations even the best rules become injurious. The thirty-sixth rule, that a copy of all the rules of the board are to be kept where the patients can have access to it is a decidedly diletante one, and cannot fail to work injury to the discipline of hospitals for the insane.

**Medical Diagnosis, with Special Reference to Practical Medicine.** By J. M. DA COSTA, M.D., LL.D. Sixth edition, Revised. Philadelphia. J. B. Lippincott & Co.

A book which has passed through six editions, and which during twenty years has been before the medical public, acknowledged as an authority, and appreciated to such an extent as to have made its translation into foreign languages a necessity, hardly calls for

an extended review at this late date. The present edition has, however, notwithstanding the brief period of time which has elapsed since the appearance of the fifth edition, been so enriched by the addition of new material, and by the insertion of new illustrations, that it is merely an act of justice to the author as well as to the publisher to call attention to these changes. The fifth edition contained sixty-one illustrations, and the present one contains sixty-eight. Among the seven new ones which have been added is one of the tubercle-bacilli in sputum, and one of the spirilla in relapsing fever. The number of new pages added is forty-three, and a great part of this new matter has been incorporated in the chapter on nervous diseases.

Among the new matter added to this chapter is, on page 64, a short description of "Allochiria," and the author, with his accustomed discrimination between accepted facts and theory, makes no attempt to enter upon an explanation of the phenomenon. Upon page 84, in speaking of degeneration reaction of muscles, he introduces the following important statement: "It may be so modified as to be abnormally slow to both kinds of electrical nerve excitation and to faradaic muscle excitation." This is a point which in the electrical diagnosis of certain affections becomes very important, as, for instance, in the rapid atrophy which frequently invades the extensor groups of muscles after a preceding affection of the corresponding joint. Upon page 116 attention is called to the fact that the average duration of bulbar paralysis is from one to three years.

On page 165, in speaking of aphasia, Wernicke's two centres of speech are explained. On page 178 a form of cramp, resembling writer's cramp, and occurring in photographers, caused by the turning of plates, is mentioned. This form of cramp occurs quite frequently; we have within the last year seen several cases of it. On page 186 a short account of Thomsen's disease is given. There are also in this chapter several additions which have been accepted as facts upon a too slender support. For a book of this kind upon medical diagnosis, where the assertions must necessarily be dogmatic, and space cannot be given to arguments pro or con, it would be well to exclude all doubtful points. This, as above mentioned, has been carefully done in the vast majority of instances, still the following assertions can hardly be accepted as acknowledged facts. On page 61, in speaking of the hemianæsthesia of hystero-epilepsy: "The degree of deafness corresponds with that of cutaneous insensibility." On page 86: "The knee-jerk is increased in unilateral convulsions."

On page 125, under the symptoms of locomotor ataxia : "There are also at times attacks of laryngeal spasms in ataxics, and *falling out of the teeth without caries*." On page 161 : "Prolonged somnolence is also among the *marked* symptoms of cerebral syphilis." On page 172 : "Epilepsy is *often* found in connection with ear-disease, and especially with purulent otitis."

Owing to these and other additions this chapter is now particularly complete, and if any distinction can be made is probably to be considered as the best in the book. No person can study this chapter without having his diagnostic faculties sharpened by it. We purposely make use of the word "study" in this connection, for the entire book must be studied, it cannot be read. The publishers also are to be congratulated upon keeping their work so thoroughly in harmony with that of the author.

G. W. J.

**Sexual Neurasthenia** (Nervous Exhaustion). Its hygiene, causes, symptoms, and treatment ; with a chapter on diet for the nervous. By GEORGE M. BEARD, A.M., M.D. (Posthumous manuscript) edited by A. D. Rockwell, M.D. New York : E. B. Treat. Pp. 270.

Dr. Rockwell, in the preface of this work, pays a well-merited tribute to the unusual intellect of Dr. Beard, and reviews the origin and history of the word neurasthenia. After an introductory chapter which treats of nervous exhaustion in general, the book enters upon a consideration of the nature and varieties of neurasthenia. After thus, through various chapters leading up to the subject-proper, we find chapter iv. devoted to sexual hygiene, chapters v. to diagnosis and prognosis, vi. to illustrative cases, vii. to treatment, and chapter viii. is, so to say, an independent one, devoted to diet for the nervous.

That Dr. Beard's reputation has in any way been enhanced by the publication of this book would be an amount of praise which cannot conscientiously be accorded to it. Beard has written and spoken so much upon the subject of neurasthenia, that even when we are given an entire book upon one subdivision of this affection we, *a priori*, hardly expect to derive much new information from it. But, nevertheless, when we have read the 270 pages which it contains we are inwardly surprised at having obtained so little.

The entire work, however, forms very interesting reading matter,—necessarily so, for every page bears the impress of Beard's peculiar style. When we have finished reading the book, and we